

**Joint Standing Committee on Migration****Chair: Ms Vamvakinou MP****Deputy Chair: Mrs Louise Markus MP**

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## **Multiculturalism inquiry to explore anti-racism strategy in Sydney**

The government's new Anti-Racism Strategy and NSW's multicultural legal and policy framework will be explored when the federal Migration committee's inquiry into multiculturalism visits Sydney this Thursday 23 February.

Committee chair Maria Vamvakinou said the new strategy and other issues would be discussed with Australian Race Discrimination Commissioner, the NSW Community Relations Commission and the Cosmopolitan Civil Societies Research Centre.

"These witnesses will bring important expertise on the current state of multiculturalism in Australia and how we can progress tolerance, integration and social cohesion," Ms Vamvakinou said.

Ms Vamvakinou said migration into Australia has made Australian society diverse, culturally rich and forward looking, but arrival and settlement is complex, requiring a clear policy framework and cohesive range of services from all levels of government and community groups.

The practical grassroots experience of delivering services to both new and established communities will be represented by Co.As.It, the Illawarra Multicultural Communities and Partners in Culturally Appropriate Care Programs.

"It is important that we learn from the grassroots experience of service delivery to both new and established migrant communities," Ms Vamvakinou said. "Well known Italian organisation Co.As.It and the Illawarra Multicultural Council bring years of local knowledge and experience to this process."

Audio of public hearing will be webcast on [http://www.aph.gov.au/News\\_and\\_Events/Watch\\_Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament)

The public hearing will run from 9.30 am to 2.45 pm at the Sydney Masonic Conference and Function Centre, Goulburn St, Sydney.

Full program and other information about the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's website [www.aph.gov.au/mig](http://www.aph.gov.au/mig) or from the secretariat on (02) 6277 4560

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